

Message Text

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FOR US DEL LOS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 5031 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUWAIT,
SANA, ABU DHABI, JIDDA, MUSCAT AND TEHRAN DATED MAR 30, 1978.

QUOTE: S E C R E T LONDON 05031

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, YS

SUBJECT: FCO ON SOUTH YEMEN

REF: LONDON 4130

1. BEAUMONT, FCO DESK OFFICER FOR THE YEMENS, SHOWED
EMBOFF SHEAF OF MOST RECENT TELEGRAMS FROM BRITISH
EMBASSY IN ADEN MARCH 30. MOST OF THESE TELEGRAMS
RECOUNTED SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDI CHARGE
IN ADEN OVER THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. THE PDRY REGIME IS
EVIDENTLY SHORT OF CASH AND CONTINUES TO TELL THE
SAUDIS THAT IT WILL CHANGE ITS POLICIES AFTER THE
SAUDIS HAVE GIVEN THEM THE FUNDS NEEDED, BUT THE
SAUDIS HAVE COME DOWN FIRMLY IN TELLING THE PDRY
REGIME THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WILL NOT RESUME THE

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FLOW OF FUNDS UNTIL AFTER PDRY POLICIES HAVE BEEN
IMPROVED.

2. AS OF MARCH 21, ACCORDING TO THE SAUDI CHARGE,
PDRY MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR SALIH MUSLIH HAD
SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE
SAUDI GOVERNMENT AND PLANNED TO TAKE UP THE INVITA-

TION IMMEDIATELY, ON MARCH 25. MUSLIH SAID HIS OBJECTIVE WAS TO REPAIR PDRY'S RELATIONS WITH ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS.

3. AGAIN ACCORDING TO THE SAUDI CHARGE ON MARCH 23, HE WAS TOLD OFFICIALLY THAT THE PDRY REGIME IS "ANGRY" WITH BOTH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR "WRECKING PDRY'S IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES." THE SAUDI CHARGE TOLD THE REGIME THAT THIS CHARGE IS TOTALLY UNTRUE. HE COMMENTED THAT THE PDRY REGIME BLAMES THE UK AS WELL AS THE SAUDIS BECAUSE IT REPRESENTS THE US IN SOUTH YEMEN.

4. ON MARCH 24 THE SAUDI CHARGE TOLD THE BRITISH THAT SHAIKH ZAYID OF ABU DHABI HAD JUST VISITED KING KHALID IN SAUDI ARABIA, AS HAD THE "PRIME MINISTER" OF KUWAIT, IN ORDER TO CONFIRM A POLICY AGREEMENT REGARDING PDRY. IT WAS AGREED BETWEEN THE THREE THAT NO AID WOULD BE GIVEN TO PDRY UNTIL THE LATTER CHANGES ITS POLICIES, AND THIS AGREEMENT WAS BEING MADE ALSO WITH ALL OTHER ARAB GULF STATES. THE CHARGE ADDED THAT SHORTLY A SAUDI OFFICIAL WOULD TOUR EUROPEAN CAPITALS TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM OF PDRY AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT. (SEE ALSO ABU DHABI 855)

5. HOWEVER, THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR IN ADEN TOLD THE SECRET

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BRITISH CHARGE ON MARCH 28 THAT PDRY WILL RECEIVE AID FROM KUWAIT IN THE FORM OF BOTH OIL AND PROJECT CASH. THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR FURTHER SAID THAT PDRY HAD PUT A PRICE ON ITS SUPPORT FOR THE ANTI-SADAT-INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN, AND THAT ACCORDINGLY IRAQ HAD PLEDGED 35 MILLION DOLLARS IN CASH OF WHICH IT HAD ALREADY PAID OUT 25 MILLION. IN THIS MESSAGE THE BRITISH CHARGE ADDED THAT THE SAUDI CHARGE HAD CONFIRMED TO HIM THAT LIBYA HAD ALREADY PAID PDRY 40 MILLION DOLLARS.

6. FINALLY, ON MARCH 28 THE BRITISH CHARGE REPORTED THAT ACCORDING TO THE SAUDI CHARGE THE IRAQIS ARE SENDING A SHIP-LOAD OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PDRY.

7. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO BEAUMONT, ANOTHER PDRY ISSUE HAS BEEN ATTRACTING THE UK'S ATTENTION, NAMELY, RECENT (DECEMBER 18, 1977) PDRY LEGISLATION EXTENDING ITS TERRITORIAL SEA UP TO THE TWELVE-MILE LIMIT, AND REQUIRING PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF PASSAGE BY FOREIGN NAVAL VESSELS TRANSITING IT. A BRITISH NAVAL SQUADRON,

HAVING COMPLETED EXERCISES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, IS APPROACHING THE BAB EL MANDEB AND IS SCHEDULED TO TRANSIT IT ON APRIL 1. ALTHOUGH THE "TRAFFIC SEPARATION" PATTERN OF THE BRITISH SQUADRON WILL REQUIRE IT TO PASS WITHIN THREE MILES OF THE PDRY COAST, THE BRITISH HAVE INSTRUCTED THE SQUADRON TO PASS THROUGH THE BAB EL MANDEB WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF THE PDRY GOVERNMENT, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE IS NO BASIS IN INTERNATIONAL LAW FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF THE PASSAGE OF WARSHIPS.

BREWSTER UNQUOTE COOPER

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